

**NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

5

10 Be it known that I, **KEVIN JOHNSON**, residing at **2747
Briarcliff Road, No. 6, Atlanta, Georgia 30329**, a citizen
of the United States, have invented certain new and useful
improvements in a

15

MULTIPLE-VESSEL CONTAINER

20 of which the following is a specification.

25

INVENTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE

30 **JOEL D. MYERS, ESQ.**
DUANE N. MOORE, ESQ.

35 **MYERS & KAPLAN**
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW, L.L.C.
1899 Powers Ferry Road
Suite 310
Atlanta, GA 30339
Telephone: (770) 541-7444
Facsimile: (770) 541-7448
40 Email: jmyers@mkiplaw.com

MULTIPLE-VESSEL CONTAINER

TECHNICAL FIELD

5

The present invention relates generally to containers, and more specifically to a bottle with multiple vessels, wherein each vessel is capable of storing fluids.

10

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A variety of beverage containers are available that 15 display a design, such as an animal, team mascot, amusement park emblem or restaurant logo, wherein such beverage containers provide the user with a memento or souvenir that can be collected and reused. In addition to their usefulness and aesthetic value to the consumer, novelty 20 cups and bottles are utilized by the owners of restaurants, sports events, amusement parks, and the like, as a form of advertising. Consumers purchase and keep such novelty cups

and bottles for their appealing design, and are reminded of the sponsor every time that they use the cup or bottle.

Thus, clever and novel designs can increase the 5 desirability of such souvenir bottles. Furthermore, beverage containers can be produced as part of a series of designs and thereby function as collectible items, encouraging consumers to purchase more containers to complete the set of designs. For example, a series of 10 beverage containers displaying Santa Claus and reindeer designs could be sold as a set or individually as collectible items.

With respect to the contents of such containers, an 15 increasing variety of beverages are becoming available to today's consumers. For instance, new flavors and assortments of beers, juices and soft drinks are continually being introduced into the marketplace. Given the wide variety of beverages available, it is increasingly 20 unlikely that all members of a family or group will desire the same beverage, and given the on-the-go lifestyle of most families and couples today, the need for convenient portability is well recognized. Thus, it has become

desirable to have a drink container that is capable of separately storing two or more beverages. Such a container could allow a user to select between multiple beverages in a single container. Unfortunately, however, conventional 5 beverage containers are only capable of containing a single liquid.

Therefore, it is readily apparent that there is a need for a beverage container that not only displays an 10 appealing design, but can individually store multiple beverages.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15

Briefly described, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantages and meets the recognized need for such a device by providing a container having an appealing design 20 that coincidentally enables the separate storage and individual selection of more than one beverage.

According to its major aspects and broadly stated, the present invention in its preferred form is a device for storing multiple beverages, wherein a smaller container is retained within a larger container. More specifically, the 5 present invention comprises an outer container and an inner container, wherein the outer container and inner container are each adapted to retain liquids therewithin. The inner container is discretely situated within the cavity of the outer container, wherein the dual-compartment or multiple 10 vessel container of the present invention features a divided aperture, thereby permitting the contents to be individually placed in or taken out of each compartment or vessel of the container.

15 In the preferred form, the inner container embodies a three-dimensional design, wherein the outer container is formed from a transparent or translucent material enabling the display of the inner container. For example, without limitation, the three-dimensional design of the inner 20 container could define the shape of an animal, team mascot, emblem, logo, block lettering, and/or any other licensed character, trademark or symbol, as desired.

Accordingly, a feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to separately store and individually dispense multiple liquids, thereby allowing a user to select between a number of desired beverages within 5 a single container.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the unique form of the inner container, wherein the design provides the user with a souvenir, memento or 10 collectible.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is that the transparent properties of the outer container permit the viewing of the design embodied by the inner 15 container.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to be reused.

20 Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to retain either hot or cold liquids.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the positioning of the inner container within the outer container, wherein the outer container can thermally insulate the contents of the inner container.

5

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the positioning of the inner container within the outer container, wherein the contents of either the inner container or the outer container can be frozen to cool the 10 contents of the adjacent container.

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description and claims when read in 15 light of the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The present invention will be better understood by reading the Detailed Description of the Preferred and Selected Alternate Embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawing figures, in which like reference

numerals denote similar structure and refer to like elements throughout, and in which:

5 **FIG. 1** is a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention displaying a bird design;

10 **FIG. 2** is a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention showing an elephant design;

15 **FIG. 3** is a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention with an example of sports team mascot image, logo and design thereon;

20 **FIG. 4** is a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention with an example of sports team mascot image, logo and design thereon;

25 **FIG. 5** is a top view of the top of the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

30

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the design shown in **FIG. 4**;

FIG. 7 is a front perspective view of the design shown
in FIG. 4;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the design shown
5 in FIG. 2; and

FIG. 9 is a front perspective view of the design shown
in FIG. 2.

10

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED
AND SELECTED ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS

In describing the preferred and selected alternate
15 embodiments of the present invention, as illustrated in
FIGS. 1-9, specific terminology is employed for the sake of
clarity. The invention, however, is not intended to be
limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is
to be understood that each specific element includes all
20 technical equivalents that operate in a similar manner to
accomplish similar functions.

Referring now to **FIGS. 1-9**, the present invention in a preferred embodiment is a container **10** for separately storing multiple liquids, wherein container **10** generally possesses outer container **20**, inner container **50**, and top **90**. Container **10** is preferably formed from flexible plastic; however, it is recognized that container **10** could be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only, glass, tin, or aluminum. Preferably, container **10** is utilized to retain and dispense beverages for human consumption; however, it is contemplated that container **10** could be utilized to retain contents that are not beverages, such as, for exemplary purposes only, condiments, oils, vinegar, salt, pepper, spices, gel, shaving cream, lotion, mouthwash, toothpaste, other personal care products, and/or any other suitable aqueous or viscous substances.

Referring now to **FIG. 6**, outer container **20** is preferably a vessel capable of containing liquids, wherein outer container **20** is preferably defined by bottom wall **22**, peripheral wall **24**, neck portion **26**, handle **28**, rim **30**, and first cavity **32**, and wherein bottom wall **22**, peripheral wall **24**, neck portion **26** and handle **28** are preferably

integrally formed together to collectively form outer container **20**. Outer container **20** is preferably formed from transparent or translucent material to permit the display of inner container **50**, as more fully described below.

5 Preferably, bottom wall **22** is substantially circular-shaped and peripheral wall **24** is substantially cylindrical-shaped. It is recognized in an alternate embodiment that peripheral wall **24** could also include ribs, grooves, or humps to facilitate gripping of container **10**.

10

Preferably, neck portion **26** and handle **28** are provided to allow a user to hold container **10** in a manner that does not obstruct the view of inner container **50**, as more fully described below. Moreover, handle **28** is preferably ring-shaped to allow a user to carry container **10** via a strap or tie. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that container **10** could comprise any size, shape or number of neck portions **26** and handles **28**. It is further contemplated in another alternate embodiment that outer 15 container **20** could embody other suitable shapes, such as, for exemplary purposes only, spherical, cubical or pyramidal.

Rim 30 preferably defines a generally circular-shaped aperture, wherein contents are placed into or removed from container 10 therethrough. Preferably, rim 30 is configured and dimensioned to receive top 90 thereon, as 5 more fully described below.

Inner container 50 is preferably a vessel capable of containing liquids, wherein inner container 50 is preferably situated within first cavity 32 of outer 10 container 20. Preferably, inner container 50 is defined by neck portion 60 and design portion 70, wherein neck portion 60 and design portion 70 jointly form second cavity 52. Preferably, handle 28 defines a portion of second cavity 52; however it is recognized that handle 28 could be 15 separate from second cavity 52.

In the preferred embodiment, first cavity 32 and second cavity 52 preferably have the capacity to retain equal volumes of liquid. However, one skilled in the art 20 would readily recognize that any relationship of storage volumes could be utilized without departing from the intended scope of the present invention.

Preferably, neck portion **60** of inner container **50** comprises wall **62**, wherein wall **62** is integrally/coincidentally formed to/with inner wall **21** of outer container **20**, thus enabling a dual-compartment design for neck portion **60**. Thus, neck portion **60** functions as a conduit to connect design portion **70** of inner container **50** to rim **30** of outer container **20** and preferably, wall **62** of neck portion **60** divides rim **30** into two separate apertures **80** and **82**, wherein aperture **80** allows contents to be placed in or taken out of first cavity **32**, and wherein aperture **82** allows contents to be placed in or taken out of second cavity **52**. Although wall **62** of neck portion **60** is preferably integrally/coincidentally formed to/with inner wall **21** of outer container **20**, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that neck portion **60** does not contact inner wall **21**, wherein neck portion **60** is connected to outer container **20** at rim **30**.

Referring now to **FIG. 9**, preferably, design portion **70** is defined by front side **72**, rear side **74**, bottom wall **76**, first sidewall **78** and second sidewall **80**, wherein design portion **70** defines three-dimensional design **82**, which can be viewed from the exterior of container **10**. Without

limitation, design **82** could embody, for exemplary purposes only, an animal, team mascot, emblem, logo, block lettering, and/or any other desirable licensed character, trademark or symbol.

5

Preferably, front side **72** and rear side **74** of design portion **70** are mirror images one another, wherein front side **72** and rear side **74** are raised and/or otherwise textured surfaces that provide a realistic depiction and/or 10 depth for design **82**. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that front side **72** and rear side **74** could also have raised and/or textured inner surfaces, and/or that front side **72** and rear side **74** could be smooth and essentially flat with design **82** printed on the outer 15 surfaces of front side **72** and rear side **74**. As shown in **FIG. 8**, it is further contemplated in another alternate embodiment that front side **72** could display design **82**, wherein rear side **74** could be a generally flat, blank 20 surface. It is also recognized that rear side **74** could represent the rear of design **82**, such as, for exemplary purposes only, the rear of an elephant.

As best shown in **FIGS. 7 and 9**, bottom wall **76**, first sidewall **78** and second sidewall **80** preferably connect front side **72** to rear side **74**, wherein bottom wall **76**, first sidewall **78** and second sidewall **80** are preferably smooth, 5 non-textured surfaces. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment, however, that bottom wall **76**, first sidewall **78** and second sidewall **80** could define the bottom and sides of the selected design **82**, such as, for exemplary purposes only, the bottom and sides of an elephant.

10

Preferably, inner container **50** is situated within outer container **20**, wherein design portion **70** of inner container **50** does not contact inner wall **21** of outer container **20**. It is contemplated in an alternate 15 embodiment, however, that design portion **70** could share one or more walls with outer container **20**, wherein inner container **50** is integrally/coincidentally formed to/with inner wall **21** of outer container **20**. For example, it is recognized that either front side **72** or rear side **74** of 20 design portion **70**, or both front side **72** and rear side **74** of design portion **70**, could share a wall with outer container **20**. In this embodiment, design **82** is defined by

a textured surface, or ink disposed on peripheral wall **24** of outer container **20**.

As best shown in **FIGS. 6** and **8**, top **90** preferably is a 5 lid for sealing container **10**, wherein top **90** is preferably capable of dispensing liquids from first cavity **32** and second cavity **52**. Top **90** generally preferably comprises peripheral lip **92** and lid **94**. Preferably, peripheral lip **92** is dimensioned and configured to receive and removably 10 secure rim **30** of outer container **20** therein via frictional fit; however, it is contemplated that any conventional attachment means known within the art could be utilized, such as, for exemplary purposes only, threaded engagement.

15 Lid **94** of top **90** generally preferably comprises divider **100**, topside **110**, and apertures **120** and **122**. Preferably, divider **100** effectively extends wall **62** of inner container **50** to topside **110**, thereby separating first cavity **32** of outer container **20** and second cavity **52** of 20 inner container **50**. Preferably, apertures **120** and **122** are disposed on topside **110**, wherein aperture **120** is positioned above first cavity **32**, and wherein aperture **122** is positioned above second cavity **52**. It is contemplated in

an alternate embodiment that lid **94** could possess greater than two apertures, or that lid **94** could lack apertures, wherein lid **94** must be removed in order to access first cavity **32** and second cavity **52**. Lid **94** further preferably 5 comprises caps **130** and **132** for sealing and opening apertures **120** and **122**, wherein caps **130** and **132** preferably engage apertures **120** and **122** via frictional fit. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that lid **94** could possess other suitable devices for dispensing liquids 10 contained within container **10**, such as, for exemplary purposes only, spouts, hand pumps, or straws. It is further contemplated in another alternate embodiment that lid **94** could define other suitable shapes and/or sizes, so long as lid **94** is capable of sealing container **10** while 15 maintaining the division between first cavity **32** and second cavity **52**.

In the preferred use of container **10**, either top **90**, cap **130** and/or cap **132** is removed from container **10** to 20 permit contents to be placed within first cavity **32** and/or second cavity **52**. Top **90**, cap **130** and/or cap **132** is subsequently replaced back onto container **10** to facilitate storage and/or transportation of the contents previously

placed therewithin. To access first cavity **32** and/or second cavity **52**, either top **90**, cap **130** and/or cap **132** is removed from container **10**, wherein the contents stored therewithin can be either poured or squeezed out. In an 5 alternative embodiment, first cavity **32** and/or second cavity **52** could be accessed via straws inserted into apertures **120** and **122** of top **90**. In another alternate embodiment, contents stored within first cavity **32** and/or second cavity **52** could be dispensed via spouts and/or hand 10 pumps disposed within apertures **120** and **122** of top **90**.

In yet another alternate embodiment, apertures **120** and **122** of top **90** could be sealed via corks.

15 In still another alternate embodiment, outer container **20** could lack neck portion **26** and handle **28**, wherein outer container **20** is substantially cylinder-shaped.

20 In a further alternate embodiment, container **10** could be formed from a resilient, squeezable material.

In yet a further alternate embodiment, outer container **20** and/or inner container **50** could possess glow-in-the-dark properties.

5 In still a further alternate embodiment, container **10** could comprise more than one inner container **50**.

10 In yet another alternate embodiment, outer container **20** could comprise a secondary inner wall for thermal insulation of the contents stored therein.

15 In still another alternate embodiment, container **10** could be securely sealed for initial sale, wherein the seal is broken by the purchaser for initial consumption of the contents therewithin, and wherein container **10** is resealable for subsequent reuse.

20 In a further alternate embodiment, container **10** could possess a design that is produced as part of a set or series of designs, such as, for exemplary purposes only, all of the universities in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Having thus described exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in the art that the within disclosures are exemplary only, and that various other alternatives, adaptations, and 5 modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments illustrated herein, but is limited only by the following claims.